





TO ADVERTISERS.

All advertisements, unless the time for which they are to be inserted is specified, will be continued until ordered out, and no charge.

JOB PRINTING.

Book and Job Printing of every description neatly executed. Terms, cash on delivery of the work.

THE "TIMES" CORRESPONDENT ON THE GOLD FIELDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Times of August 8th publishes a very long letter on the Gold Mines of British Columbia, and gives an article upon the same subject, both of which are of much interest. The letter, which is from the Times correspondent so well known for his letters of 1862, is dated June 3d. After giving a full summary of the reports from the mines which had reached Victoria up to the date of the letter, the writer says: "To many of our readers the foregoing statements will appear incredible, to others fabulous." Quartz mining, which the writer regards as "the germ of mining property," he says must eventually become the chief permanent interest of the mineral regions, and must be developed by foreign capital. Of the present diggings the writer very justly remarks that "they also require capital to develop their wealth, but that the poor man need not despair on that account, for if he has strength and the will to work, he possesses available capital in his labor."

Having disposed of "the prospects of mining capital," he proceeds to give an accurate account of the labor market, and the rates of remuneration which he describes as being high almost without precedent. The drawbacks to a successful mining career are very faithfully represented both as regards the great expenses and difficulties with which the mining capitalist has to contend before he can expect a remunerative return for his capital and the anxiety, delay, vexation and loss of time which from one cause or another, "jumping," and its concomitant litigation included, the miner usually suffers, and also with regard to the hardships and privations which the working miner must expect to encounter on his journey up and during his sojourn at the mines. He enters very fully and explicitly into the great expense of living at the mines, and the causes of the high prices of provisions and other necessities, and prognosticates that with the opening of roads, such ruinous charges will be reduced this season considerably, and far more next year.

After a favorable notice of Crook Creek, Bridge River, and other diggings, with a few words showing the fallacy of the statement that British Columbia possessed no lands fit for cultivation, the letter concludes with the following remarks:—"One last word addressed to such as may feel desirous to come out to this country. If the intention be to go to Cariboo, my advice would be that no one should come this year, it is too late to come for this season's mining."

Mining prospects are neither painted in too glowing colors nor the reverse, the letter is simply a well, and we think a faithfully condensed collection of facts, with an occasional expression of opinion upon the probable result of a combination of those facts. These expressions of opinion are for the most part borne out by the results, so far as they are at present shown. The Times comments the description given by their correspondent to the half million of people left without employment by the destruction of the cotton industry in England. We should also gladly welcome half a million of English capital.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION.

The third exhibition of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society is advertised to take place on the 30th inst. The sum to be awarded as prizes is not very large, about \$250; but this sum is to be distributed among a number of different classes, that every one on the island possessing a farm or a garden may compete for the honor of a premium. The monetary value of the prize is not what the competitors will consider; however trifling the amount, the spirit of emulation is the same. Every man likes to be successful in what he undertakes, and the winner of the prize of one dollar for the heaviest dozen of hen's eggs will be as proud of his or her success as if the premium were fifty dollars; although the receipt of a substantial reward is no doubt satisfactory. Our agriculturists must bear in mind that upon themselves in a great measure depends the success of this society. The more successful the exhibition this year, the more will the society be able to accomplish next year. Competition in class A (live stock) will probably be confined to our oldest farmers, but in any other class there is nothing to prevent those who have been at work on their farms or gardens during the present year from carrying off the premiums; and we hope to see some of the settlers from Cowichan and Comox exhibiting samples of the produce of their farms.

We would also urge upon our agricultural friends, who do not compete, the importance of their attending the exhibition and examining the merits of the stock and produce raised on the different farms on the island. The careful selection of stock and seed is one great secret of success in farming, and in no way can the farmer so well estimate his qualities as on an occasion like this, where he has the opportunity of a comparative examination of their merits. Nothing has tended more to improve the breed of stock, and the general system of farming in England, than the annual agricultural shows which have now become so general and so successful. We hope a similar result may be seen in this island.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ITS CLOSED DOORS.

The correspondence between His Excellency the Governor and the Secretary for the Colonies, in regard to the Executive and Legislative Councils, was laid before the House of Assembly on Monday last. At a time when the Constitution of the Council, originally established for Vancouver Island, has been somewhat altered, we deem it a fitting opportunity to draw attention to a subject affecting the relations of the Legislative Council with the public, which is generally felt and acknowledged to be a grievance. We allude to the sittings of that Assembly being conducted with closed doors.

The people are represented in the Legislative Council by the unofficial members, although, of course, they have no power of voice in sending them to that House; the appointment both of official and unofficial members is a prerogative of the Governor, yet the people have a sort of prescriptive right to know how they are represented. Under the British Constitution both Houses of Parliament are open, and it is unquestionably a matter of right, that possessing as they do the power of framing laws for the people, the deliberations and debates incident to the passing of laws should not be carried on in secrecy. In Canada, in Australia, and, in fact, in all colonies and dependencies within our knowledge, where the government is carried on by means of a House of Representatives, and a Legislative Council, or by an Upper

or Lower House, the public are admitted to hear the debates in both Houses. We believe that we are the solitary exception to this system. In India, where there is no such thing as Representative Government, the deliberations of the Legislative Council have not been carried on with closed doors for the last fifty years. How long is Vancouver Island to stand alone in this respect? In the name of Constitutional Liberty we call upon the Legislative Council to open their doors. We claim it as a right, that the public should be admitted to hear their debates. Why this privilege should so long have been denied to us we are at a loss to conceive. The Council are not ashamed of their actions—why then carry on their business with closed doors, a species of secrecy which savours too much of the days of the Star Chamber to be acceptable in the present days of enlightenment. The House of Assembly propose to provide suitable accommodation for the members of the Press by erecting a "Reporters' Gallery." We hope that the Legislative Council will speedily emulate the example thus afforded them, and, at the least, allow the reporters to be present at their sittings.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. VICTORIA THEATRE.

THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING, September 24th.....1863, Continued Success of the MARSH TROUPE! FASHIONABLE COMEDY NIGHT! His Excellency, JAMES DOUGLAS, C. B., and Suite, will honor the Victoria Theatre with their presence this Evening, when will be presented the beautiful 3 Act Comedy of the Ladies' Battle! Singing and Dancing! GRAND CHINESE DANCE! By 20 of the Troupe.

To conclude with (by particular desire) the never to be forgotten side-splitting

Toodles!

Dress Circle, \$1 50; Parquet, \$1; Back Seats, 50 cents. Box Office open from 11 o'clock, a. m. till 3 o'clock, p. m. Doors open at half-past 7; performance commences at 8 o'clock precisely.

St. John's Church!

Anniversary of the Consecration,

SUNDAY NEXT, SEPTEMBER 27th,

MORNING SERVICE at 11.—The RECTOR will preach.

EVENING SERVICE at 7.—Preacher, Rev. W. S. REEVE, M. A., V. Principal of Columbia School. The offertory Collections Morning and Evening will be devoted to the Repair and Lighting Fund.

Notice to Builders!

TENDERS WILL BE RECEIVED until 2 p. m. on MONDAY, the 25th instant, for the erection of a Brick Town Cottage. Plans and Specifications can be seen at the office of

RICHARD LEWIS, Architect, Government street.

Licensed Victualers' Association of Victoria, V. I.

DIETZ & NELSON'S

British Columbia and Victoria EXPRESS!

CONNECTING AT VICTORIA WITH

WELLS, FARGO & CO.,

For California, Oregon, Atlantic States

and Europe,

AND AT YALE AND LILLOOET WITH

BARNARD'S CARIBOO EXPRESS,

For Cariboo and the Northern Mines.

CONVEYING Freight, Valuables, Letters, Pack-

ages, and Parcels, and Transferring everything con-

necting with the Pacific Coast, and other

business of all kinds, at the lowest rates, and

with the greatest promptness.

Map of all the different Districts on the Island may

be seen at this office. Parties desirous of purchasing

homesteads, or making investments, can obtain the

latest and most reliable information from our

Bulletin Board Town Lots on nearly every street

Farming and Gardening Land in every District; some

of which afford a rare chance for investment.

Conveyances, leases, &c. drawn up at reasonable

rates.

ATTENTION: to the Registration of Mortgages,

Deeds, and other Documents, the

Assaying of Gold, Silver, and

other Metals.

PARTICULAR attention given to the purchasing of

Goods at New Westminster, B. C., and

Victoria, V. I., on the most fa-

vorable terms, and shipping to desti-

nation.

LANDING WAREHOUSES, and Goods

stored through the Custom House

without delay.

New Westminster, 13th, 1863.

AD. LOWENBERG,

REAL ESTATE AGENT,

No. 36, East side of Government street, between

Broughton and Fort streets.

WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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## AUCTION SALES TO-DAY.

J. A. McCREA will sell at 11 a. m., at sales-rooms, White Horse, on liberal credit, Crocker-Holler Ware, consisting of Biers and Basins, Sugar Bowls, Cream Jars, Butter Dishes, Crocker-Holler Ware, Plates in all varieties, etc., etc., Tinned Sausages, Stewpans and Tea Kettles, Fine Cut Glassware—Decanters, Tumblers, Salt Cellars, Fruit Dishes, Wine Glasses, etc., etc. Also to dose invoices, Molasses, Syrup, S. I. Sugar, and a variety of Groceries and Provision, etc., etc.

## CARIBOO.

The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster yesterday afternoon, with 55 passengers and an additional quantity of treasure.

The news from the upper country is to the 12th inst, but is devoid of much interest.

## QUARTZ VEINS.

Mr. Pearce, the discoverer of a rich quartz vein near Williams Creek, arrived by the Enterprise, bringing very rich specimens of the quartz. He traced the outcroppings for nearly half a mile, and then sunk a hole from which he took his specimens, the bulk of which are now on the way down. He intends to try to organize a joint stock company in this city to work the discovery.

## LIGHTNING CREEK.

Mr. Pearce reports that considerable excitement exists on this creek in regard to the hill diggings lately discovered. Quite a rush had been made to the place, and men were staking out claims in all directions. The lead is thought to extend through a reach of three miles.

## GOLD ESCORT.

Mr. Pearce met the Gold Escort at Mud Lake, bound up it was thought that some of the miners would take advantage of the next trip to accompany them down.

## THE WINTER.

It is thought that not so many men will winter in Cariboo as was expected; very few cabins are being erected, without which, of course, men could not stand the severity of the weather.

LAST OF ONE OF THE MURDERERS.—The body of Fred, Glenard, the murderer who was drowned in the Thompson River, was buried last week at Cook's Ferry.

BOARD OF DELEGATES.—An adjourned meeting of the Board of Delegates was held last evening in the City Council Chamber, at which the President, Secretary, and Messrs. Bishop and Cushman also attended. The body of the Hall was well filled with members of the Fire Department. The President commented upon the absence of the members of the Board, who he thought was unjust to those gentlemen who had appealed to him, and were entitled to a fair and impartial hearing. He said he had himself applied for the Council Chamber, thinking that it afforded better accommodation to the members of the department, who were anxious to hear the trial of Mr. Bishop and Mr. Cushman made a few well-timed remarks, and the President, upon motion of the Secretary, adjourned the meeting, subject to his call.

SUPREME COURT.—Chalmers v. Smith.—Yesterday Mr. McCreight, instructed by Mr. Wake, appeared in support of a payment made by the defendant into Court in lieu of bail. Mr. Bishop for the plaintiff. Argument was raised upon whether a payment in gold coin here, equivalent to the current value in greenbacks in Washington Territory, at the date of the judgment obtained there, was to be held sufficient or not. His Honor, after hearing both parties, held the payment sufficient.

THE PHILIPPINE.—This vessel is somewhat in a curious predicament just now. Two days ago we learn that Mr. Bishop on behalf of the crew entered proceedings in the Vice-Admiralty Court for the removal of the Captain. Yesterday the master obtained a warrant against his men for alleged insubordination, upon which they were subsequently arrested. Mr. Bishop on the mean time having taken out a writ and arrested the ship for wages alleged to be due to the seamen.

THE PIC-NIC.—A number of persons started for the picnic grounds at Oak Bay yesterday morning, where abundant preparations had been made for their comfort and enjoyment. The pleasures of the day were however damped by the showers of drizzling rain which fell during the greater part of the time.

CASTING.—Messrs. Douglass & Sons have just made a successful casting of one of the cylinders for Jimmy Jones' new propeller building at Port Townsend, to be called the "Jimmy Jones." The cylinder is fourteen inches in diameter. We understand that the Welsh maid will be ready to pay us a visit in about three weeks.

TRADING WITHOUT A LICENSE.—A man named Maurice Patrel, who hawks small air balloons about the streets, was charged yesterday in the Police Court with trading without a license. The defendant when called did not appear, and was fined \$25, to be levied by distress.

WAGES SET.—Robert Glover was summoned by Henry F. Seaton, for \$6, yesterday, in the Magistrate's Court, where he did not work done in December last. The defendant did not appear, and service of the summons having been proved, judgment was given by default.

ASSAULTING THE POLICE.—Jim, a Soughish Indian, was fined ten dollars yesterday by Mr. Pemberton, for assaulting an Indian policeman, and resisting the officers in the execution of their duty, in defiance of a recent month's imprisonment.

GAS COMPANY.—At a meeting of directors of this company, held yesterday, a dividend of six per cent. for the six months ending 30th June, 1863, was declared. The dividend is payable at the office of the company on the 10th of October, prox.

WILFUL DAMAGE.—John Rooney was brought before Mr. Pemberton, yesterday, upon a warrant charging him with wilfully and maliciously damaging the property of Jacob Ehrenbacher, and was remanded until this day.

RECAPTIVITY.—Warrants were issued from the Magistrate's Court, yesterday, against nine seamen of the bark Philippine for disobeying the orders of the captain and refusing duty.

SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS.—John Rooney, Benjamin Ward, and William Henderson stand remanded by Mr. Pemberton until this morning, that enquiries may be made into their characters.

FOR BUTE INLET.—The schooner Laurel sailed yesterday for Bute Inlet, taking as passenger Corporal Leach, of the Royal Engineers, who will proceed to lay out the town site.

ASSAULT.—John Mahony was brought before the police magistrate yesterday for violently assaulting a man named Michael Wells, and was remanded until Friday.

FOR NANAIMO.—The brig T. W. Lucas left yesterday for Nanaimo to load coal for San Francisco.

THE SLOOP RANDOM arrived yesterday from San Juan.

A canoe arrived yesterday from Alberni, but brought no later news.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 23, 1863.

The Speaker took his seat at 3:15 p. m. Members present, Messrs. DeComas, Street, Fidler and Duncan.

The Speaker read a letter from His Excellency in reply to his (the Speaker's) letter of the 18th inst., requesting returns of correspondence in regard to the offer of seats in the Legislative Council, and replies thereto; the reply stated that no such correspondence existed.

Mr. Fidler, in the absence of Mr. Young, the mover, moved the first reading of the Bill to Restrict Vendors of Capas, &c., &c. Seconded by Mr. Street. Second reading fixed for Monday, 25th inst.

On motion, the House then adjourned till Monday, the 28th inst.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—The performance of the March troupe last night, considering the inclemency of the weather, was very well attended. This talented company grows in popular favor at each representation. The grand spectacular drama of the Naird Queen was repeated and performed with increased spirit, the talented young artists being greeted with frequent bursts of applause. The dancing and singing gave great satisfaction, and in the ludicrous farce of the "Two Bonny Castles," clever little Georgy, ably supported by other members of the troupe, kept the house in continued roars of laughter. There will be a grand performance to night, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor, particulars of which appear in the advertisements and bills.

POPULAR READINGS.—We would remind our readers that they can this evening enjoy a treat, and at the same time aid in a good cause by patronizing Mr. H. Doncaster's Readings from Celebrated Authors and Poets, to be given in the Lyceum Hall. The proceeds of the Readings are to be devoted to Church purposes, and we feel sure that all who had the honor to hear the talented gentleman, on a former occasion, will not only attend themselves but bring their friends with them.

COURT OF BANKRUPTCY.—Re Posey.—A claim had been sent in by Mr. Pochin, for \$15 wages due from the Bankrupt. Mr. Donnes appeared yesterday in support of the proof. Mr. Drake and Mr. Parkes opposed, alleging that Pochin had been paid. After hearing the evidence of Pochin His Honor adjourned the case until Wednesday next, for the production of books and further evidence.

SALING OF H. M. S. SUTTER.—The Subj will sail from Esquimalt this morning at daylight. It is the intention of Admiral Kingcome to visit all the principal ports on the station, calling first at San Francisco. The Subj will probably be absent until April or May next. We wish the gallant Admiral and the officers a pleasant cruise.

THE GUNBOAT GRAPPLER returned to Esquimalt on Tuesday from the North. She passed the schooner Surprise, from Queen Charlotte Island, between Port Rupert and the Rapids. She also reports having seen another small craft, but she was too far off to distinguish her.

FROM PORT TOWNSEND.—The sloop J. C. Caswell, with several passengers, arrived yesterday from the Sound. We learn from the master that the whole of the prisoners had broken jail at Port Townsend and made their escape.

NATIVE COPPER.—A prospecting party, who have just returned from Sooke, bring with them some specimens of stony or soapstone, containing specks of native copper. Some excitement has been caused by the discovery.

TOWED IN.—The ship Jasper was towed in by the Enterprise yesterday afternoon, and moored at Dickson, Campbell & Co's wharf.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Catalina arrived yesterday, at 2 a. m. from New Westminster with forty passengers and about \$30,000 in treasure.

FROM OLYMPIA.—The schooner Sarah Newton arrived from Olympia yesterday evening. She brought us the latest Olympia papers.

FOR THE SOUND.—The schooner Growler, Barrington, sailed yesterday for the Sound.

## Comax and its Requirements.

COMAX, Sept. 18, 1863.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir—I am glad to see that there is a fast increasing immigration among the inhabitants of this colony to pre-empt the fertile soil, and to make a home in a wild land, where the soil is good, and there are no doubt large tracts of good farming land in this Island, it becomes a matter of much importance to the whole community to have these lands now lying wild, put into a state of cultivation as soon as possible. With the last year's great changes have taken place in this respect. Twelve months back it was not generally known that such a place as Comax was in existence; but now there are between 30 and 40 good farm homesteads created, and the land on the prairies, where before the deer and wolf had the entire sway, and there are between 150 and 200 acres under cultivation, the crops from which, consisting chiefly of wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes, will stand the comparison with any grown in the old or any other country. But though these changes have taken place it has all been through the enterprise of the individual settlers. These men forsake friends, society, and everything dear to them, and they have made a home in a wild land, where the soil is good, and there are no doubt large tracts of good farming land in this Island, it becomes a matter of much importance to the whole community to have these lands now lying wild, put into a state of cultivation as soon as possible. With the last year's great changes have taken place in this respect. Twelve months back it was not generally known that such a place as Comax was in existence; but now there are between 30 and 40 good farm homesteads created, and the land on the prairies, where before the deer and wolf had the entire sway, and there are between 150 and 200 acres under cultivation, the crops from which, consisting chiefly of wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes, will stand the comparison with any grown in the old or any other country. 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